other entitled categories. In such purchases, no preference is given to any firm, whether large or small-multinational or otherwise. Only products considered readily saleable, based on the clientele preferences are procured. No specific guidelines have been issued to provide special concessions to small scale sector in purchases to be made by CSD. Nevertheless instructions have been issued along with other constituents of the Defence set-up, to induct/promote use of certain selected products manufatured in the Handloom/Handicraft/Cottage segments of the small scale sector.

(c) and (d) No financial incentives are given to goods from the small scale sector.

Defence co-operation with Russia

1112. SHRI V.P. DURAISAMY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are contemplating purchase of defence hardware and service from Russia to the tune of fifteen million dollars under a new ten years' defence co-opeation programme with that country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Infiltration of ISI in the Army

1113. PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV:
SHRI ISH DUTT YADAV:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "ISI men plan to join Army" which appeared in the Indian Express, dated 25th August, 1998;

(b) whether Government have assessed the gravity of the ISI activities in the country as well as its infiltration in the Army;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps Government have taken so far or propose to take to curb the ISI infiltration in the Army?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) In view of Pakistan ISI's support to militant activities in India, the possibility of their attempts to infiltrate agents in the armed forces cannot be ruled out. However, no such incident has come to the notice of the Government so far. Appropriate and elaborate measures exist to detect and neutralise enemy infiltration into the armed forces.

Shelling by Pakistani troops

1114. SHRI AKHILESH DAS:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned, "Life in the shadow of Death" published in the Tribune, dated 10th September, 1998 to the effect that since June 27, 1998, shelling by Pakistani troops on the national highway from Srinagar to Kargil enroute Leh has been too frequent, intense and treacherous so as to cut the supplies to Ladakh region;

(b) if so, what steps have been taken to ensure proper security for transport and traffic moving along the highway; and

(c) whether the matter has been taken up with Pak-authorities to prevent such shelling of traffic on the highway?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Army has been providing safety to vehicular traffic and supply convoys on this highway by regulating the movement of such traffic. This method has been very successful and the winter stocking in

Ladakh region has been completed well ahead of schedule.

(c) The issue of Pak unprovoked firing across the border in J&K is taken up with Pak authorities from time to time. It was also taken up during the Foreign Secretary level talks held in Islamabad in October 1998.

Shortage of spare parts

1115. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA NAHATA:
SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA':

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a shortage of spare parts for Russian Fighter Planes with Indian Air Force; and

(b) if so, the urgent steps proposed to arrange adequate spares to maintain operational preparedness of IAF?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) The IAF is facing some shortage of spares parts for russian Fighter Planes.

(b) The issue is regularly pursued with the russians, and as a result the position has considerably improved. The following steps have been taken to ensure availability of adequate spares to maintain operational preparedness of the IAF:

(i) Alternative resources in CIS/ East European countries have been identified, and the process continues successfully.

(ii) The factories manufacturing the spares are being directly approached for the supplies.

(iii) All out efforts are being made to indigenise spare parts of Russian Fighter Planes. As a result over 27,600 spares have since been indigenised.

Undertaking of comprehensive strategic review

1116. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU:
SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a comprehensive strategic review has been undertaken by Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the composition of the review panel; and

(c) whether there is any need for recasting the parameters of the review in the light of the extremely severe and hostile stance of the U.S. Government towards India, as reflected in the latest decision of black-listing some 200 Indian organisations both in the private and the public sector?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Talks between Manipur CM and US Ambassador

1117. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the recent talks between the Manipur Chief Minister and the U.S. Ambassador during his tour to the North-Eastern region complaining about the Centre's apathy to the socio-economic development of the State;

(b) whether Government have obtained the factual position from the Manipur Government; if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of Government with regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L. K. ADVANI): (a) Certain reports to this effect have appeared in the press.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.